# Grade Descriptors for Religious Studies

**Years 7 -11**

## Grades 8 - 9

| **Knowledge** | • Be able to explain faith in the modern world/pluralistic society.  
• Have knowledge of faith in the modern world/pluralistic society.  
• Can use detailed knowledge and thorough understanding of religion to describe.  
• Can explain how differences in beliefs can lead to differences of religious response. |
| **Understanding/application** | • Be able to explain and analyse the significance and impact of beliefs, practices, sources, ways of life and form of expressing meaning.  
• Be able to explain evolving religious truths and adaptations/interpretations in religion showing good development and/or analysis.  
• Be able to explain evolving religious truths and adaptation/interpretations in religion. |
| **Evaluation** | • Demonstrates originality.  
• Be able to give alternative interpretations of controversial/ultimate questions/moral issues.  
• Draw a wide range of relevant evidence and interpretations of religious teachings/sources.  
• Evaluate different points of view and reach evidenced judgements on beliefs and issues studied. |
| **Literacy** | • Can use religious vocabulary throughout work and confident when using new language.  
• Can adapt vocabulary to take into account religious similarity and difference.  
• Evidence of highly developed and confident use of religious terms and SPaG. |
## Grades 6-7

| **Knowledge** | • Give informed insight into religion.  
• Demonstrates sound knowledge.  
• Be able to describe the difference between cultural/religious practises. |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Understanding/application** | • Be able to account for religious diversity.  
• Be able to relate to different contexts.  
• Be able to explain the impact of culture on religious expression.  
• Be able to explain the impact of beliefs, teachings, sources and practices on a believer.  
• Be able to explain the impact of religion on a believer. |
| **Evaluation** | • Make coherent evidence based on judgement showing reasonable consideration of two views with reference to religion.  
• Can use reasoned arguments to respond to religious beliefs and moral issues.  
• Make evidence based judgements showing reasoned consideration of two views with reference to religion. |
| **Literacy** | • There is evidence of highly developed use of religious terms and SPaG.  
• Can use religious terminology consistently and correctly.  
• Evidence of new vocabulary being used. |
# Grade 5

## Knowledge
- Understand context (wider and historical).
- Subject specific vocabulary used consistently and accurately to enhance knowledge.
- Demonstrates good knowledge of the topic/religion(s) being studied.

## Understanding/application
- Explain differences within and between religion using relevant examples.
- Can apply knowledge in context.

## Evaluation
- Give reasoned consideration of more than one view with reference to religion.
- Begin reaching own conclusion based on evidence based judgements on religion/moral issues/ultimate questions.
- Examine similarities and differences in religion and link this to personal opinion.

## Literacy
- Consistent and accurate use of SPaG.
- Good use of subject specific vocabulary used consistently and accurately.
- Evidence of new religious vocabulary being used in work.
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| **Knowledge** | • Describe accurately and in detail beliefs and practices.  
• Identify parallels and similarities between religions.  
• Describe in detail religious beliefs and practices.  
• Describe some varieties of expression.  
• Use subject specific vocabulary consistently and accurately.  
• Show awareness of the meaning and importance of the beliefs and practices of the religions being studied. |
| **Understanding/application** | • Describe differences within and between religions using examples.  
• Apply specific religious teachings and sources to personal decision making.  
• Use religious sources/teachings.  
• Describe impact of religion to the lives of the believers. |
| **Evaluation** | • Give a well-argued response giving account of others’ views.  
• Give a well argued opinion based on one point of view, often reflecting on their own beliefs. |
| **Literacy** | • Can use some religious language confidently and fluently.  
• Growing awareness of context and begin to explain why some religious language is relevant in one context/belief system and not in another e.g. cremation.  
• Mostly accurate and consistent use of SPaG. |
## Grades 1-2

| **Knowledge** | • Describe differences between religions with examples.  
• Use subject specific vocabulary.  
• Describe briefly beliefs and practices.  
• Identify and describe religious symbols. |
| **Understanding/application** | • Explain how/why.  
• Use religious teachings in a generic way.  
• Be able to explain symbolism in religious language/ritual/stories.  
• Formulate questions of meaning and purpose.  
• Suggest why/how?  
• Identify ultimate questions.  
• Respond to matters on faith and religion based on knowledge. |
| **Evaluation** | • Support own opinion.  
• Be able to relate ideas to their own/others lives.  
• Be able to outline a basic argument.  
• Respond sensitively.  
• Recognise that people have their own views. |
| **Literacy** | • Use some religious language and subject specific vocabulary.  
• Begin to assimilate new words to current understanding.  
• Some relevant religious teachings may be identified.  
• Can use simple language and SPaG. |
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| Knowledge        | • Remember/recall accurately religious stories/festivals/rituals.  
|                  | • Retell stories/rituals accurately.  
|                  | • Recognise features of religious stories/festivals/rituals.  
|                  | • Recognise religious ideas/things.  
| Understanding/application | N/A |
| Evaluation       | • State opinion/make choices.  
|                  | • Begin to make judgements based on feelings and experience.  
| Literacy         | • May assimilate new words to current understanding.  
|                  | • May remember some religious vocabulary. |